

Dear Committee Chair Hope and Committee Members,

I am writing to you on behalf of our daughter, Major Meredith H. Steggerda, U.S. Army. She is currently assigned to Fort Leavenworth, Kansas and resides in Kansas City, Missouri. Her home of record is 4614 Wyatt ST SW, Grandville, MI. Military personnel are able to maintain a home of record so they don't have to change everything, address wise, when they change duty stations.

She was recently summoned for her second Jury Duty. She requested a onetime deferral for her first summons. She did this because an exemption is not available for service members. She is working with her leadership for an exemption due to her current assignment as the Deputy Commander for Nursing at Munson Army Health Center, Fort Leavenworth, for her second summons.

Michigan is currently one of the states that don't allow exemptions from Jury Duty for Military Service. The only exemptions Michigan has listed are for medical reasons and age.

With the current reporting procedures for Jury duty, calling Friday night for a Monday court date, or Monday for Tuesday and so on throughout the week, travel options are limited. This severely hinders the Service Member with transportation options. Last minute flights are expensive, traveling standby is not reliable, train services from Kansas City are 15 hours, and vehicle travel is 10 plus hours. Compound this with the cost of travel. If this was an E3 that makes \$2,402.10 a month with a family of 3, last minute travel isn't budgeted. Some of these travel options would not be available for a Personnel stationed at a different location. All this and you might not even need to report in person for Jury duty the week you are summoned.

I highly encourage discussion with the Michigan House of Representatives to review the list of exemptions for Jury duty. While I understand Jury duty is a civic duty, your duty in the Military takes on a much higher status. Imagine being active duty, stationed overseas or in a combat zone without an exemption. Military service should be an automatic exemption from Jury duty. Proof of Military Service as an exemption would be as simple as submitting a copy of the Service Members orders.

I'm sure changing the law would benefit many other service men and women by relieving them of the expense and time away from their duties to return for this purpose.

Thank you for any assistance you can provide.

Sincerely,

David A. Steggerda

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